

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings are formal drawings of the drawing figures previously submitted and include changes to Fig. 3. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-4, replace the original drawing sheets including Figs. 1-4. In Fig. 3, Applicants have added reference numeral 25.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the time and consideration that the Examiner has provided in reviewing this application. By the above amendment, claims 1, 2, 8, 20 and 22 have been amended.

In the Office Action dated June 7, 2005, the Examiner objected to the disclosure because of a missing period on page 6, line 4. Accordingly, the specification has been amended, as reflected above, to insert the missing period in the paragraph referenced as paragraph [0016] in the published application (20050058525), a copy of which is attached hereto. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the objections to the disclosure.

In the Office Action dated June 7, 2005, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) because the Examiner believed that a “battery cell” was not shown in the drawings and because the drawings were informal. By the above amendment, the Applicants have submitted formal drawings and have amended the claims to delete the stand-alone term “battery cell” and therefore respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the objections to the drawings.

In the Office Action dated June 7, 2005, the Examiner also objected to the specification and indicated that the “written description must provide support for the ‘planar surface’ throughout the claims, as well as the “top surface” of claims 20 and 22. The Examiner also objected to claims 1, 8 and 20-22 as not being clear with respect to the terms “planar, top surface”. By the above-amendments, the Applicants have amended the specification and the drawings to reference the “planar surface” and have deleted the term “top surface” from claims 20 and 22. Accordingly, now that one example of a “planar surface” is described in the

specification (with reference to the drawing figures), the Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw his objections to claim 1 and 8 with respect to the “planar surface” limitation. Moreover, the Applicants have removed the extra period from the end of claim 1 and have placed a space between “claim” and “8” in claim 21, thereby obviating these objections as well.

The Examiner also rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. As amended, independent claims 1 and 8 recite, among other elements, a bolt having a tapered sealing portion that is in contact with a planar surface of a battery cell subassembly, wherein the bolt contains a head portion that is *encased* in the battery cell subassembly. The Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited prior art references disclose, teach or suggest the structure claimed in independent claims 1 and 8. Indeed, the primary reference cited by the examiner (Lee) has a bolt with a head portion 502 that is outside of, and not encased in, the subassembly 414. Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 8, and all claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

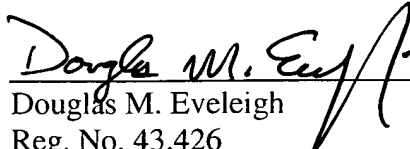
CONCLUSION

In conclusion, and in view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable consideration and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Applicants also submit that by the above amendments, no new matter has been added to the application. If, for any reason, the application and claims are not in condition for allowance, or any additional information is required, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (312) 701-8738. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 13-0019. If a fee

is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Douglas M. Eveleigh
Reg. No. 43,426

MAYER, BROWN, ROWE & MAW LLP
P.O. Box 2828
Chicago, IL 60690-2828
(312) 701-8738

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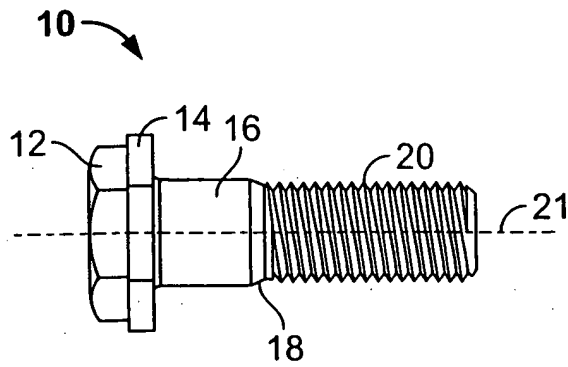


FIG. 1

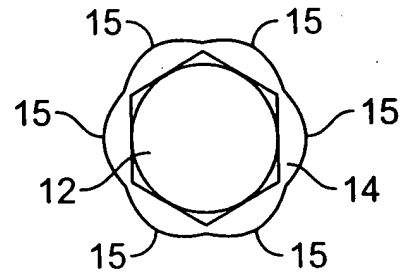


FIG. 2

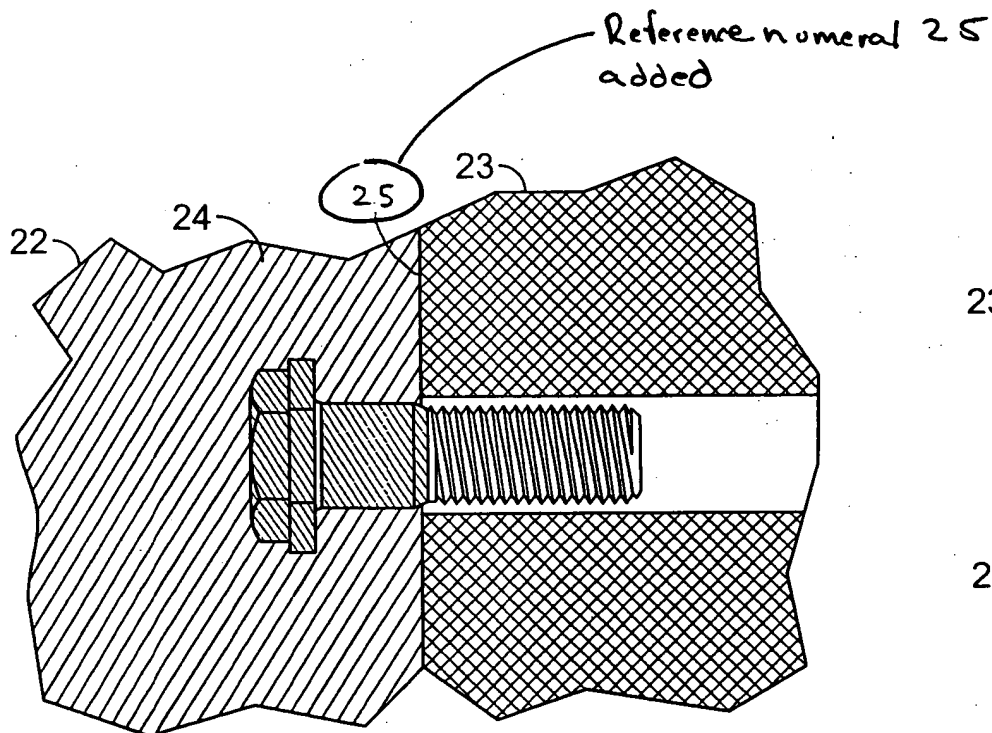


FIG. 3

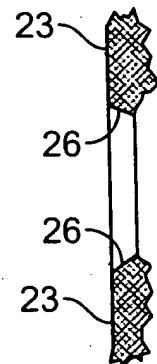


FIG. 3A